

Berkeley's PATHS

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a grassroots volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. BPWA hopes to accomplish this goal through volunteer-led path walks, identification and accurate mapping of Berkeley's complete path network, and eventual restoration of paths that have been blocked or obscured.

Meetings **Live Oak Park Rec. Center**

7-9 pm 1200 Shattuck Avenue

Sept. 19 **General Meeting**

Special **Wednesday** meeting at the Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St. **Paths of the East Bay Hills' Natural History. Panelists include Malcolm Margolin, Richard Schwartz, and Steve Edwards**

Oct. 18 **Board Meeting**

Nov. 15 **General Meeting**

Finding Yourself in the Hills: the Berkeley Paths by Karen Kemp

Path Walks RAIN OR SHINE

Saturdays at 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)

August 25th U.C. Campus Pathways
Allen Stross 841-2359
Meet at Center and Oxford

September 22nd Park Hills
Mardi Sicular Mertens 849-1142
and Marilyn Siegel 549-2908
Meet at the fountain at Park Hills & Shasta

October 27th Panoramic Hill and Upper Strawberry Creek
Ann Moghaddas 548-3366
Meet at the International House at the top of Bancroft.

November 10th Ridge to Bay Trail Part II
Janet Byron 848-4008
and Charlie Bowen 540-7223
Take the #65, 10:00 sharp at Berkeley Bart, or the 10:05 on Euclid at the Rose Gardens. Reconvene at Shasta & Grizzly Peak at 10:30.

December 1st Eastshore State Park
Susan Schwartz 848-9258
Meet at Sea Breeze Market University & Frontage Road

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Summer 2001 Vol. 4 No. 2

Berkeley's Byways—on Path Names

This story is from boardmember, Paul Grunland's files—a newspaper clipping, unfortunately with date and name missing—by the looks of it, from The Berkeley Daily Gazette. The date of authorship is sometime after the 50s for certain as that was when the Marin Circle Fountain lost its fountain. Any clues to the authorship? Please let us know.

Rose Walk, off Euclid Ave., was commissioned by Mrs. Florence Dickens

Gray and the late B. G. Gray and designed in 1913 by the master architect, Bernard Maybeck. The winding path and its lovely terraces are classic in their simplicity.

Orchard Lane, with its multi-tiered steps winding through a hillside woods, was built in 1908. The lane connects two levels of Panoramic Way.

The stories behind the naming of many of the byways could easily become legendary.

In 1930, Mrs. Nettie S. Gaines, who lived off

an unnamed set of steps near Hawthorne Terrace, complained that the post office wouldn't deliver her mail. The reason given was that she resided on an unofficial street. The city council came to the rescue with an ordinance legalizing **Hawthorne Terrace Steps**, and Mrs. Gaines got her mail.

Four years later, Mrs. Belle M. Holmes, who described her family as the

continued on back



The developers Mason McDuffie listed this path, The Cut-off, on their 1909 Claremont Map #2. It hadn't yet been integrated on their earlier 1905 map.

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

Board Members

JACQUE ENSIGN, chair
PAT DE VITO, co-chair
ELEANOR GIBSON, recording secretary
SUE FERNSTROM, treasurer
KAREN KEMP, newsletter
JAY CROSS, webmaster
CHARLIE BOWEN
TOM EDWARDS
PAUL GRUNLAND
SUSAN SCHWARTZ
JIM SHARP
HELEN WYNNNE

Berkeley Byways *continued*

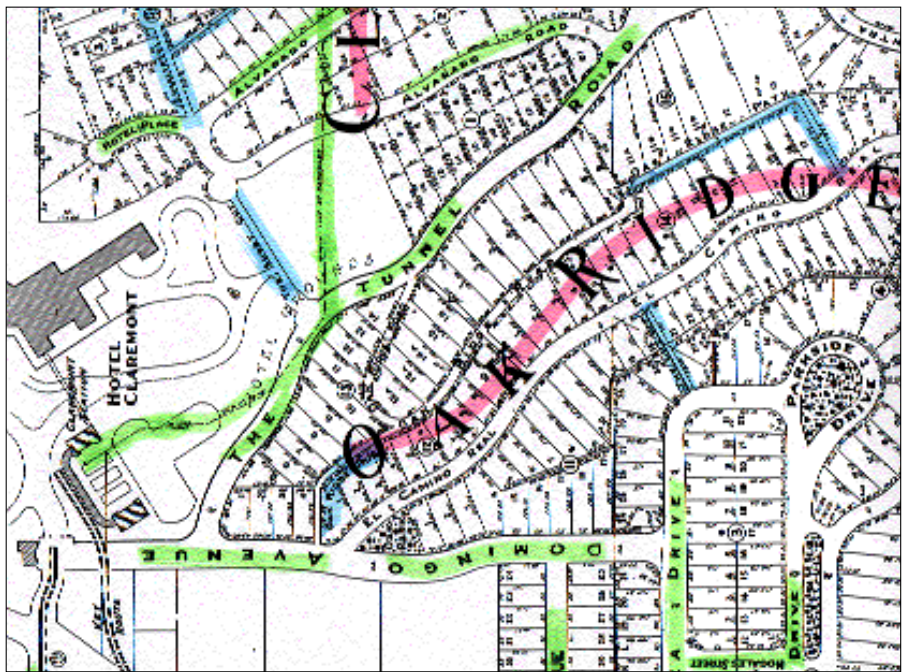
pioneer residents of Kentucky Ave., asked that the path adjacent to her home be christened. "It's an official bus stop, but passengers don't know how to tell the driver where to let them off," Mrs. Holmes lamented. "If you can't think of a better name we would be honored to have it designated **Holmes Path**." And so it was.

Fountain Walk, named in 1916 and connecting Del Norte Ave., to The Circle, gained its appellation from the fountain which graced the center of The Circle. At the base of the fountain were three bears, holding hands, of all things. The bears and the fountain are long gone, done in several years ago by a wayward truck.

Across Del Norte Ave., is **Terrace Walk**, the upper level of which is still referred to unofficially as The Daisy Path. It was named more than 50 years ago by children in the area because of its profusion of daisies, or so the story goes.

Billy Jean Walk, connecting Euclid and Hillside Aves., was named for his daughter at the request of City Councilman "Call Me Joe" Harris back in 1931.

Although there is a colorful history to the naming of most paths, at least 29 lack any such distinction. Back in 1941, City Engineer Harry Goodridge complained that many byways had no names and were a nuisance to describe on official documents. So, in one fell swoop he bestowed names on 29, including Poppy, Bret Harte and Parnassus paths, Twain



Berkeley's earliest planned neighborhood by Mason McDuffie—Claremont—included paths, concrete paved sidewalks, and street names on Arts and Craft design stone pillars. Unlike later neighborhood developments, the paths received names from the start: The Short Cut appears on this 1909 map. Park Path, linking El Camino Real with Oak Ridge Road, is the only unnamed path, and from Oak Ridge Road to Tunnel Road, the path was never improved.

Way and El Mirador Steps.

Many of the byways take their names from streets, from early residents and from trees and flowers. But in many respects the best cognomen of all has been reserved for a path off Grizzly Peak Blvd., and a sister walkway up from Alvarado Rd. They are called simply **The Shortcut!** [The other path titled The Shortcut is located near the Marin Circle, up hill from Terrace Walk, and between Walnut and Oxford streets.]

Professional Path Map in the Works

With a kind donation of \$1,500. from councilmember Betty Olds toward the production of a 2-color, professionally printed map, BPWA is working with Hedberg Maps, Inc. of Minneapolis, Maine. An affordable and very readable map of the City of Berkeley, it will highlight all the improved and unimproved paths, and include an index of all the path names, along with their code number which the city established as a

simple reference device to use during path studies, such as the 1983 Luk Milani report. The map should be available for purchase by the end of the year, with a discounted price for BPWA members.



www.internetttime.com/path

Troop Work Update

Atlas Path (designated unimproved), leading up from Grizzly Peak to Hill Road, should be getting some attention. Eagle Scout candidate William Berkeley, from Troop 6 turns 18 on September 30, so he must organize the renovating of this path before then to fulfill his public service requirement.

William will build steps at the top of Atlas Path on Saturday, August 25 along with a work party. Check out the newly enhanced path. Thanks Scouts.

Berkeley Public Works

Thanks go to Ken Emezium, Civil Engineer for the Department of Public Works engineering division, for his commitment to the improvements of the paths. Paths to be improved in the near future are Tamalpais, The Crossways and North Crossways, Martinez, Easter Way and Alta Vista. Handrails will be installed at Billy Jean Walk, and Terrace Walk (by the stairs).

Mark Your Calendar

BPWA will have a booth again at the Solano Stroll—this year it's September 9th. And on September 30th it's How Berkeley Can You Be? The parade is always silly fun. Get involved with BPWA's group this year—call Helen Wynne at 843-5738.

Requesting Research Help from a Title Company

Berkeley Path Wanderers needs help with title research. If you can help, or if you know someone who can, please call Jacque at 524-4715.

If you have any concerns about path issues please call Jacque at 524-4715.

Annual membership in Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is \$5.00 due January 1st of each year. Benefits include Path Inventory Index, maps of pathways, newsletter, and BPWA mailings. Mail form with check or money order, payable to: BPWA, Berkeley Partners for Parks 1442A Walnut St., #269, Berkeley, CA 94709

(BPWA is a member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.)

BPWA Membership Form **Please print**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Telephone _____